

## God's Delays are not God's Denials, Part 2 - Acts 25:3-5 – March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part two of a series titled; "God's Delays are not God's Denials." The Apostle Paul will rise from our text and attest to this truth.
- Paul has been in custody for two years now, and despite the delay in Caesarea, and the denial of justice, it's all providentially perfect.
- If you were to put a caption on these last four chapters of this amazing book of Acts, it would have to be; "God's Perfect Providence."

"We can see that Paul's generous "imprisonment" in Caesarea was actually a providential provision of protective custody against the murderous intentions of the Jews, as well as a "forced rest" in light of his unfailing missionary service in years past, and great tasks in the years ahead."

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- With this in mind, what can we learn from the life of Paul as it relates to God's delays not being misinterpreted as God's denials?

### 1. Man's way can't deny God's way (Verses 1-2)

- The chief priests and Jewish leaders present their false charges against Paul to Festus as the new Governor of Caesarea province.
- As we'll see next in verse three, they try to persuade Festus to see it their way because they have made an oath to rid the earth of Paul.
- Be that as it may, the Lord has already told Paul the way it's going to go, and as he had testified in Jerusalem, he will testify in Rome.
- Suffice it to say, that regardless of how many people get in the way and try to delay God will still have His way and the Apostle knows it!

### 2. Man's plans can't deny God's plans (Verse 3)

3 They urgently requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.

- v3 Paul's accusers plead with Festus to do them a favor and have Paul brought back to Jerusalem, as secretly, they planned to kill him.
- Ultimate failure will be met with this plan because this is not the plan for this, God's man. I'm not trying to be clever I'm trying to be true.
- In other words, man can make all the plans his wicked and deceitful little heart desires but its God who will have the final word, not man.

**Proverbs 16:1** To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue. NIV

**Proverbs 12:5** The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful. NIV

**Proverbs 16:9** In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. NIV

**Proverbs 19:21** Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. NIV

### 3. Man's injustice can't deny God's justice (Verses 4-5)

4 Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. 5 Let some of your leaders come with me and press charges against the man there, if he has done anything wrong."

- v4 Festus responds to their plea to bring Paul back to Jerusalem by telling them that Paul is in Caesarea and that's where he's going.
- v5 Festus tells them that, "if Paul has done anything wrong," then some of your leaders can go back with him and press charges there.
- Forgive my raw remarks here, but this is just stupid. Paul has not done anything wrong! He is just, and they are unjust as unjust can be.
- Fortunately for us, Paul, unlike me, doesn't see this in that way. Why; because he has committed this injustice to the justice of his Lord.

**Psalm 37:5-7** 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. 7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. NIV